



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 31, 2026

Representative Joseph McNamara
Chair, House Committee on Education
82 Smith Street, Room 135
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H7003: An Act Relating To Education -- Health And Safety Of Pupils

Dear Representative McNamara:

I write to you in support of H7003: An Act Relating To Education -- Health And Safety Of Pupils. This bill directs the state department of education to establish an anti-hazing policy in student athletics.

As a mother of two children, I want the confidence of knowing that my children will be supported, comfortable, and safe when they go to school. I am incredibly grateful for the teachers, administrators, and peer leaders who work everyday to create that kind of environment in our state's schools. But it's clear that a lack of policy and a lack of oversight has contributed to incidents of hazing. By now the incident which occurred last year in Smithfield has become a notorious example of our state's need for more robust policy and programmatic solutions.

I appreciate the leadership of Representative McNamara and the entire house delegation that has fought for this bill. We all benefit when there are clearly defined standards, procedures, and accountability measures. I look forward to seeing this bill passed and would like to go on record in strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor
CC: Representative Joseph McNamara